

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-13, 22-35, 37 and 39-40 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 13 and 37 are amended, and claims 2, 3 and 38 are canceled. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found, for example, in the original claims. No new matter is added.

In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. Interview

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Fletcher at the interview held October 31, 2008, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 2, 3, 12 and 38 contain allowable subject matter. Specifically, these claims are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejects claims 1-13, 22-35 and 37-40 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,593,807A to Sacripante et al. ("Sacripante"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,803,177A to Lowrie ("Lowrie"), and *vice versa*. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. By this Amendment, claims 2, 3 and 38 are canceled, rendering their rejection moot. As to the remaining claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

By this Amendment, the subject matter of claims 2, 3, and 38 are incorporated into independent claims 1, 13, and 37.

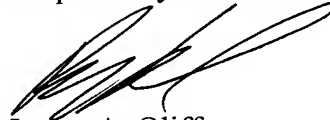
Therefore, independent claims 1, 13 and 37 are not rendered obvious by Sacripante and Lowrie. Claims 4-12, 22-35 and 39-40 variously depend from claims 1, 13 and 37 and, thus, also are not rendered obvious by Sacripante and Lowrie. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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